

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An illumination device comprising:
 - (a) a light source;
 - (b) a light fiber comprising:
 - an elongate polymeric core having an input end for receiving light from the light source, an output end for emitting light transmitted through the core, and a lateral surface extending along a longitudinal axis of the core between the input end and the output end;
 - a light-emitting region directing light traveling ~~though~~ through the light fiber out of at least a portion of the lateral surface of the light fiber ~~in a direction generally transverse to the longitudinal axis~~, the light-emitting region comprising at least one optical element, wherein the optical element comprises an indentation formed in the core by an embossing process; and
 - a continuous outer cladding layer comprising a polymeric material having a lower index of refraction than the core extending over the lateral surface of the core and the at least one optical element;wherein the light fiber is optically coupled to the light source such that at least a portion of the light emitted from the light source impinges on the input end of the light fiber.
2. (Original) The illumination device of claim 1, wherein the light-emitting region comprises a series of two or more optical elements separated at a distance from one another along the longitudinal axis of the core.
3. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the light-emitting region has a length along the longitudinal axis that is less than a total length of the light fiber along the longitudinal axis.

4. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the light-emitting region of the light fiber emits light with a lateral angular distribution of less than 360 degrees.
5. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the light-emitting region of the light fiber emits light with a lateral angular distribution of less than 180 degrees.
6. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the light fiber is rotatably connected to the light source.
7. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the light fiber is detachably connected to the light source.
8. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the light fiber emits light from both the output end and the light-emitting region.
9. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the light source is a flashlight.
10. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the continuous outer cladding comprises fluorinated ethylene-propylene.
11. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the light-emitting region comprises at least three optical elements regularly spaced along the longitudinal axis of the core.
12. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the light-emitting region comprises at least three optical elements irregularly spaced along the longitudinal axis of the core.
13. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the optical elements have a depth ranging from about 1% to 10% of a thickness of the light fiber.

14. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the light fiber includes a first optical element having a first depth and a second optical element having a second depth wherein the first depth is not equal to the second depth.
15. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the light fiber has a circular cross-sectional shape and has a diameter ranging from about 1 mm to about 25 mm.
16. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein the outer cladding layer has a thickness less than about 1 mm.
17. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2 further including a jacket layer over the outer cladding layer.
18. (Original) The illumination device of claim 2, wherein each of the optical elements comprise at least one reflection surface inclined at a angle from 10° to 80° to a plane normal to the longitudinal axis of the core.

Support for Amendment:

Claim 1 is amended to include the definition of "optical element" provided in the specification at page 5, lines 11-18. An "optical element" is characterized as comprising an indentation formed in the core of the light fiber by an embossing process.

Claim 1 is amended to remove the characterization that light traveling through the light fiber is directed "in a direction generally transverse to the longitudinal axis." It is submitted that the specification does not require that the light fiber directs light "in a direction generally transverse to the longitudinal axis."

Claim 1 is additionally amended to correct a typographical error by changing the word "though" to "through."

The specification is amended at pages 7 and 28 to refer to proposed Figure 10 showing a diagram of the jacketed fiber of Example 8 prior to embossing. The outstanding office action requests a drawing correction showing the "jacket layer" of claim 17. The jacket layer is clearly supported by Example 8 of the specification and original claim 17. For the Examiner's information, the jacket layer is the exterior layer and is the layer exposed as shown in Figure 10. Accordingly, the introduction of proposed Figure 10 and the amendment to the specification at pages 7 and 28 is supported by the specification.

The above amendment does not introduce new matter, and entry thereof is requested. Upon entry, claims 1-18 are active in this application.